HIERACIUM LACTUCELLA WALLR. (ASTERACEAE)
NEW FOR WISCONSIN.

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Hieracium lactucella Wallr. is, according to Sell & West (1976), to be found in most of Europe except the extreme north and south. The species differs from our other stoloniferous, yellow-flowered introduced hawkweeds in that it has three short-stalked capitula atop the scape (the involucre 8 mm high) and its glaucous rosette leaves are devoid of stellate hairs. The species is explicitly excluded from the flora at the plants.usda.gov website, although the basis for this is not given—it simply asserts, “Not in North America north of Mexico.” The species is not mentioned at botany.wisc.edu, the website for the herbarium of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It is mentioned in passing in Gleason & Cronquist (1991), where it is said to have been collected in the northeast part of the manual’s range; however, there is no mention of it in any of the relevant, more localized floras: Catling et al. 1985; Roland & Smith 1969; Magee & Ahles 1999; Hinds 2000.

The label data are: Wisconsin, Wood County. Hieracium lactucella Wallr. Forming solid sods of plants, but only along a small stretch of a very lengthy (east-west) sand and muck dike on the Glacial Lake Cranberries property, west side of county trunk D, bounded on the north by state route 54, on the south by state route 173; section 29, T22N, R4E, Cranmoor Township. Basal leaves only faintly glaucous; corollas bright yellow. Neil A. Harriman #21702 & Thomas G. Lammers, 6 June 2003; identical locality, Neil A. Harriman #21727 & Thomas L. Eddy, 12 June 2003—both in OSH, duplicates to be distributed.

Both Harriman and I dug up some of the portions of the “sod” that extended into the roadway atop the dike and transplanted them into our gardens, in Winnebago and Green Lake Counties, where they continue to thrive. The glaucous state of the basal leaves is much more evident when the plants are in partial shade; in their “native site” on the dike across a cranberry bog, there was no shade at any hour of the day.

The collection site is far from any residence or garden; indeed, there are no buildings visible to the horizon. Nonetheless, the site is highly disturbed, with farm machinery and dredging equipment, and propagules of the plant may well have been brought in from some distance. The size of the population suggests that the plants have been there for some time; however, the blooming period is quite short, and the plants would be easily overlooked.


